



**LONG BEACH MAYOR O'NEILL CONFIRMED
CHAIR OF US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ADVISORY BOARD
WILL BECOME USCM PRESIDENT IN 2005**



Denver – June 9, 2003: Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill's nomination as the incoming Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Advisory Board was unanimously confirmed by the membership of the U.S. conference of Mayors at today's business session of the organization's 71st annual meeting. O'Neill will be sworn in on Tuesday June 10th along with incoming President James A. Garner, Mayor of Hempstead, New York, and vice President Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, Ohio, as one of three officers presiding over policy formation and direction for the only national organization of mayors.

As Advisory Board chair for 2003-2004, O'Neill will become Vice President of the organization in 2004, and will assume the Presidency of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in June 2005.

"I'm very pleased that Mayor O'Neill has been elected to the leadership of the Mayor's conference," said Boston Mayor and USCM President Thomas Menino. "Last year, the voters of Long beach recognized her extraordinary abilities by electing her as a write-in candidate. This week, America's mayors also recognized her great leadership skills."

"Mayor O'Neill's quiet leadership style belies the kind of steely resolve successful Mayors must have to make tough decisions," said Denver Mayor and former USCM President Wellington Webb. "The U.S. Conference of Mayors will be better for her leadership."

"Mayor O'Neill will be a great leader of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, just as she has been a great Mayor for Long Beach. I am an unabashed fan," said Senator Dianne Feinstein.

"Beverly O'Neill has demonstrated her leadership and vision, and has built a strong following and rapport amongst her colleagues," said Marc H. Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League and former New Orleans Mayor and USCM President. "She is well respected and liked, and we always knew that she would be president of this organization."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors was founded in 1933 and is the official nonpartisan organization representing over 1,100 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. The primary role of the organization is to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy, strengthen federal-city relationships, ensure that federal policy meets urban needs, provide mayors with leadership and management tools, and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

Mayor O'Neill will be just the fourth woman elected as President of the Conference of Mayors and the sixth mayor from California to serve in the organization's 70 years of existence.

Recent past Presidents of the U.S. Conference of Mayors include Boston Mayor Thomas H. Menino, New Orleans Mayor Marc H. Morial, Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb, and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

As Advisory Board Chair, Mayor O'Neill looks forward to supporting the comprehensive agenda of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and will work with her fellow mayors to address the critical issues facing our nation's cities, including public safety and homeland security, enhancing the quality of neighborhoods, housing and open space, increasing public/private partnerships, improving infrastructure and transportation systems, jobs and workforce development, and strengthening the vitality of America's cities.

Since her election as Mayor of Long Beach in 1994, Mayor O'Neill has been very active in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, including four years as Chair of the Jobs, Education & Workforce Committee, member of the Advisory Board, and currently Trustee of the organization. Mayor O'Neill also served as President of the League of California Cities. Mayor O'Neill will conclude her presidency of the USCM by presiding over the 74th U.S. Conference of Mayor's Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada in June 2006.